

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

This application is a division of parent U.S. patent application SN 09/942,743, which remains pending. In the present application, Claims 2, 4,-7, 9, 11-14, 16, and 18-21 remain active, Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17 having been canceled and Claims 5, 12, 13, 19 and 20 having been amended by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

Briefly recapitulating, Applicants' invention as recited in Claims 2, 9 and 16 are directed to a liquid crystal display device, an active matrix type liquid crystal display device, and a driving method. According to one aspect of the Applicants' invention an image signal of a first polarity is applied for each field in a first one of two successive periods obtained by dividing the frame period, and an image signal of a second polarity opposite to the first polarity and of fixed amplitudes for each subsequent field in a second one of the two successive periods is applied. In other words, since the polarity of the applied voltage is adapted for the asymmetric optical response of the ferroelectric liquid crystal material, occurrence of an afterimage can be reduced. Accordingly, contrast and the aperture ratio can be improved without requiring a complicated array structure.

In the parent application, Asao et al. (USP 6,577,289) was cited as disclosing applying an image signal of a first polarity for each field in a first one of two successive periods, and applying the image signal of a second polarity opposite to the first polarity and of fixed amplitudes for each subsequent field in a second one of the two successive periods, despite the Examiner's admission Asao et al. fails to disclose dividing a frame into a plurality of fields. In the parent application Ito et al. (USP 6,172,662) was also cited as teaching an LCD display comprising a frame with a plurality of fields, raising an obviousness issue in the

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Inventor: Tatsuo SAISHU, et al.

Preliminary Amendment filed herewith

parent application in regard to the claims there pending based on the combination of the teachings of Ito et al. and Asao et al.

Applicants respectfully dispute the rejection in the parent application. Since according to Applicants' invention, the image signal is updated for each frame, two successive periods can be obtained only by dividing one frame period. It is respectfully submitted that Ito et al. and Asao et al fail to include such a teaching. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Asao et al. and Ito et al. also do not disclose any field in which the image signal is unconditionally set at fixed amplitude. In view of these deficiencies, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims in the present divisional application patentably distinguish over the Ito et al. and Asao et al references.

Accordingly, examination of the merits of the pending claims is believed to be in order and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

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